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**EDMONDSON FAMILY
PAPERS
1848-1885**

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Archival Technical Services

Accession Numbers: 1434, 1971.020
Date Completed: April 7, 1965
Location: II-H-2

INTRODUCTION

These photocopies of the Edmondson Family Papers, 1848-1885, were made from originals owned by Mrs. J.T. Edwards, Clarksville, Tennessee, and were obtained through the agency of Miss Virginia Gooch, Nashville, Tennessee. The majority of the papers are on microfilm in the Emory University Library.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Edmondson Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Edmondson Family Papers, ca. 250 items for the dates, 1848-1885, primarily consist of the correspondence of the family of John Edmondson of Rutherford County, Tennessee. There are also various Civil War military papers, including an order signed by General John B. Hood, a discharge signed by Isham G. Harris, an oath, passes, railroad tickets, and receipts.

Five of John Edmondson's sons served in the Confederate Army, and of these there are letters during this period from four of them (William, George, Robert Paine, and Thomas Pinkney). George served in Co. E, 20th Regiment, Tennessee Infantry; William in the 37th Regiment, Tennessee Infantry and from one of Williams's letters we learn that he (William) served with Martin's Regiment at one time; Robert P. with the 9th Regiment, Tennessee Cavalry; Thomas P. served with the 2nd Regiment, Tennessee Infantry; and, Catesby Edwin served with the 4th Regiment, Tennessee Cavalry (McLemore's).

George Edmondson wrote two of his letters from Mill Springs, Kentucky, (Logan's Cross Roads) in December 1861 before the battle there on January 19, 1862. His comments on preparations being made and on the general situation are revealing. Seventeen of his letters, most of which are brief, were written from prison at Fort Delaware, and comment upon such topics as their trouble with small pox and the kindly treatment he has received at the prison.

Robert Paine Edmondson wrote during the last two years of the Civil War eleven letters from Rock Island Prison. These are primarily personal in nature, but reflect to some extent general prison life.

William Edmondson went in 1852 to visit his Uncle Tom in Holly Springs, Marshall County, Mississippi, in the hope of entering business there. His letters written while there tell of passing through "Whigish" McNairy County, Tennessee, and later of agricultural conditions around Holly Springs. An 1858 letter written from Mobile, Alabama, gives his reactions to that part of the country. In his letter written during the Civil War (August 29, 1861) he writes of his plans to go with Bates's Regiment a week or two without being sworn in to see if it "agrees" with him. If it doesn't, he plans to return home and go back to Martin's Regiment. William suffered from poor health much of the time.

Thomas Pinkney Edmondson wrote two letters from Camp Holmes near Manassas, Virginia, in October and November 1861. In these letters he describes the severe conditions under which they are living and advises his brother, William, who was in poor health, not to return to camp because "if you were here & had to undergo what we do it would kill you in a week". He reports heavy firing in the direction of Manassas, speaks of the Federal provision blockade the Confederates are attempting to effect, and mentions that "they (the Federal soldiers) were spying around yesterday in a balloon and are at it again this morning".

There are no Civil War letters from Catesby Edwin Edmondson, but there are letters written from Holly Springs, where he attended school and was engaged in business for a short time. Most of his letters comment upon agricultural prospects and conditions but in a letter written in November 1852 his thoughts were upon the recent election of Franklin Pierce: "The Election went off very peaceably in this place. There was not much excitement. Everyone seems to be for Pierce and I believe the most of them voted for him."

Twenty-four of the letters in the collection were written by Thomas W. Edmondson, a bachelor brother of John, who lived at Holly Springs, Mississippi. John's sons often visited him for lengthy periods of time. His letters are concerned primarily with family matters and problems relative to his land and crops. Two of his letters were written during the Civil War (November and December 1861) and touch on various topics including the lack of pork due to hog cholera and the cotton blockade. In his letter to his brother, John, written December 2, 1861, he states that "Marshall County has sent into the Confederate Army two-thirds of her voting population and several companies are now being made up. Business is prostrated and provisions of every kind very high...." His post-war letters describe conditions faced by Mississippians after the war.

Although John Edmondson himself did not write any of the letters in the collection, the majority of the letters were written to him and most of the accounts, etc., were his.

In 1971, there was an addition to the collection consisting of genealogical data for the Edmondson, Craddock, and Randolph families for the years 1782-1926. This addition was the gift of Mrs. George Watson, Franklin, Tennessee.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Edmondson

John Edmondson (February 14, 1806-September 28, 1887) lived near Jefferson, a post-village of Rutherford County, Tennessee, twenty miles southeast of Nashville. He was born in Virginia. In 1830, John married Amanda Randolph (nee Amanda Sarah Keeble), a widow with two children, Peter and Sarah Randolph. John and Amanda had one daughter, Harriet, and six sons, William, Catesby, Edwin, George, Robert Paine, Thomas Pinkney, and David W. David W. was the youngest and was the only son who did not serve in the Confederate Army. John's occupation is listed as farmer on the federal census records. He was apparently in comfortable financial circumstances and was the one to whom other members of the family looked for counsel. John was an active church member and in 1866 was a member of the session of Smyrna Presbyterian Church. John's daughter, Harriet, was the grandmother of Mrs. J.T. Edwards, the present owner of the originals of these papers.

CONTAINER LIST

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Box 2	Correspondence – A – B
Box 3	Correspondence – C
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Box 6	Correspondence – Edmondson, R. – T. Edmondson
Box 7	Correspondence – Edmondson, Thomas W.
Box 8	Correspondence – Edmondson, William
Box 9	Correspondence – Edmondson, William C.
Box 10	Correspondence – H – L
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Box 14	Correspondence – Unidentified
Box 15	Diary material – Edmondson, Robert – 1864
Box 16	Military records and papers – 1862-1865
Box 17	Writings – Sermon (partial)
Box 18	Addition – Genealogy – Edmondson, Craddock, and Randolph

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